Assistance by IFCI

*328. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has expressed its keenness to promote industrial projects in infrastructural development in the backward States;

(b) if so, the State-wise plan drawn up for finance from the IFCI; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL):

(a) to (c) IFCI has reported that it provides financial assistance to infrastructure projects, including to those set up in backward areas, on the basis of agreed parameters for financing, provided such projects are technically feasible, commercially viable and economically justifiable. IFCI has further reported that no State-wise plan has been drawn up in this regard, but all bankable proposals are considered on merits.

Constraints in Smooth Flow of Tourist Traffic in the Country

*329. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for majority of tourists from USA and Europe, India is the first preference;

(b) whether it is also a fact that long sunny beaches and historical places are their main attraction but rigid bureaucratic approach, discrimination against foreign tourists in the matter of hotel tariff and corrupt promoters are the main constraints in the smooth flow of tourist traffic in the country; and

(c) if so, what measures would be taken to remove these constraints and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that historical monuments and beaches attract a large number of foreign tourists to India. The main constraint on growth in tourist traffic to India is the inadequacy of infrastructural facilities. The measures initiated by the Government for the improvement of tourism infrastructure in the country include provision of fiscal and financial incentives and setting up of an Investment Facilitation Cell in the Department of Tourism to facilitate private investment in the sector, declaring tourism as a priority sector for foreign investment, providing central financial assistance to State / UT Governments for implementing infrastructural schemes / projects and co-ordination with other concerned Departments and agencies.

Zero Tax and Marginal Tax Paying Companies

*330. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Zero tax and Marginal tax paying Indian Companies;

(b) whether any step is being taken to cover such companies by amending provisions governing depreciation claims;

(c) any other step being contemplated by Government to increase the tax coverage; and

(d) corporate tax received from public sector companies during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY):

(a) The Income-tax Department does not maintain separate record of Zero tax and Marginal tax paying Indian Compaines. To locate the companies which do not